White Passports to Dancers

*432. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a troupe of Bhangra Dancers from Punjab was given white passports to visit Germany in September, 2005 to perform under a cultural exchange programme;

(b) whether the antecedents of the members of the troupe were checked before issuing the white passports;

(c) whether more than half of the members disappeared after a few performances and still remain untraced by German authorities; and

(d) whether the German Government has issued a note of concern and if so, Government of India's comments thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As is the usual practice with cultural troupes sponsored by the ICCR going abroad to perform under cultural exchange programme, the Bhangra troupe was issued official passports.

(b) ICCR had verified professional antecedents of the troupe members.

(c) Out of the 15-member Bhangra troupe, nine members disappeared in Germany. The Indian Mission in Germany had immediately reported the matter to the concerned German authorities who are proceeding in the matter.

(d) No note of concern was received from the German Government.

Agreement of scientific collaborations

*433. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) with how many countries the bilateral agreements of scientific collaboration and exchanges have been signed;

(b) whether these agreements permits the scientists and academicians from these countries to take up medium or long term faculty positions and research assignments in the academk? and research institutions in the Country;

(c) if so, the details of such long and medium term visitors in last three years; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Inter-Governmental bilateral agreements of collaboration and exchanges in the field of Science and Technology have been signed with 67 countries and with European Union, so far. The list of countries with which these agreements have been signed is given in the Statement (see below)

Pursuant to the Agreements, Joint Committees are set up comprising of representatives of both sides. These Joint Committees decide on the activities and areas of collaboration to be undertaken under the Agreement. The Agreements signed on scientific collaborations provide by and large for following modes of cooperation:

(1) Exchange of scientists., research workers and technical experts.

(2) Organization of colloquiums, seminars, workshops and scientific and technological exhibitions on problems of common interests.

(3) Conducting of joint research and development projects and application of the results of such research in industry, agriculture and other fields.

(4) Exchange of scientific and technical information between the scientific centres and institutions.

(5) Joint use of scientific facilities and scientific equipments.

(6) Facilitating industrial R&D and catalyzing joint ventures.

(7) Training of scientists/technical personnel.

(8) Creation of joint science and research facilities, centres, laboratories and groups.

(9) Catalyzing science based Public-Private Partnership.

Normally the joint activities include visits for joint workshops/seminars, joint research and development projects, joint use of facilities, training and exploratory purposes. Medium or long term faculty positions or

assignments are not directly provided to visiting scientists under these Agreements.

Statement

List of S & T Agreements as on 20.12.2005

Country	Date of Signature
1. Australia	15.10.1986
2. Argentina	24.1.1985
3. Armenia	25.3.1994
4. Bangladesh	17.11.1982
5. Belarus	14.5.1993
6. Brazil	22.7.1985
7. Bulgaria	10.11.2000
8. Canada	17.11.2005
9. China	22.12.1988
10. Colombia	11.6.2005
11. Cuba	19.11.1978
12. DOR Korea	8.5.1991
13. European Community	23.11.2001
14. Egypt	16.10.1995
15. Estonia	5.2.1999
16.France	18.7.1978
17. F.R.G.	30.1.1974
18. Hungary	8.12.1992
19.ICTP	25.11.1999
20. Iceland	19.10.2005
21. Indonesia	10.2.1982
22. Iran	25.1.2003
23. Italy	28.11.2003
24. Israel	17.5.1993
25. Japan	29.1.1985
26. Kazakhstan	25.5.1993

Country	Date of Signature
27. Kyrgyzstan	22.9.1995
28.Lao	16.6.2003
29. Malaysia	12.9.1998
30. Mauritius	24.1.1990
31. Mexico	23.7.1975
32. Moldova	19.3.1993
33. Mongolia	14.7.1988
34. Mozambique	12.5.2003
35. Myanmar	24.6.1999
36. Nepal	21.3.2002
37. Oman	5.10.1996
38. Poland	12.1.1993
39. Philippines	8.4.1987
40. Peru	26.8.1975
41. Portuguese Republic	3.12.1998
42. Republic of Korea	8.3.1976
43. Romania	18.10.1993
44. Russian Federation	30.6.1994
45. Servia and Montenegro	28.10.2004
46. Singapore	4.1.1995
47. Slovak	10.1996
48. Slovenia	31.1.1995
49. Sri Lanka	28.2.1975
50. Sudan	26.2.2002
51. South Africa	19.7.1995
52. Sweden	9.12.2005
53. Swiss Federal	10.11.2003
54. Syria	16.21978
55. Tajikistan	17.12.1995
56. Thailand	1.2.2002
57. Trinidad & Tobago	1.7.1985

Country	Date of Signature
58. Tunis	17.10.1995
59. Turkey	2.4.1976
60. Twas	25.11.1999
61. Ukraine	27.3.1992
62. UK & Northern Reland	8.1.1996
63. Uzbekistan	29.7.1993
64. USA	17.10.2005
65. Venezuela	3.4.1987
66. Vietnam	23.2.1996
67. Yemen	7.12.1996
68. Zambia	26.1.1975

Cases being handled by CBI

*434. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases being handled by CBI as on the 30th June, 2005;

(b) the number of cases being investigated into by CBI for more than five, ten and fifteen years;

(c)the number of officers and staff posted in CBI; and

(d) whether Government think that the present sanctioned strength is enough to handle the increased work-load effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As on 30th June, 2005, CBI was investigating 1466 cases.

(b) Out of the cases under investigation as on date.only 2 cases are more than 5 years old. There is no case pending for more than 10 years.

(c) 4716 officers/staff were in position in CBI as on 1.12.2005.

(d) The effective deployment of existing personnel, modernisation and technical upgradation of CBI and improved facilities for training of CBI personnel have ensured that CBI is able to handle its work-load effectively.